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1/23/93

Reading notes and records put aside two decades ago for possible use in the book tentatively titled Agent Oswald early this morning the attached memo got me to thinking of a number of things of that period, of my work then, and of friends I'd made of what critics think of as "the other side." The previous memo to which it refers is in the basement and I'm not now going to get it and the date, not on this addition to it. I'd not read and corrected the memo when I finished writing it.

Jesse Core was a conservative, a close friend of Clay Shaw's, at the time Oswald picketed the International Trade Mart its public-relations man and Shaw was still its manager. He was offended that Garrison was not in touch with him on the Shaw case because he had been important in Garrison's campaign and Jim knew he was a friend of Shaw's.

I remember that because I had not drunk heavily in years I drank him under the table, so to speak, figuratively, not literally. He was not in good shape when we parted but I kept working.

Gresham of the mafia connection was dressed rather loudly. He was considerable older than the woman with him, the alumna chairman of the coming Sugar Bowl game. Both were quite friendly and well loaded, as I recall. Attractive matron.

I recall now that I was then in New Orleans as Ray's investigator. That was the end of 1972. Bud Fensterwald was chief counsel, I was the investigator. I'd written about Raoul Esquivel in Frame-Up, the report that James Earl Ray had phoned him at the State Police Baton Rouge barracks (none in New Orleans (Metairie), where he lived), the information from Jerry Cohen, LA Times. He said that a strange character Charles Stein who'd ridden from LA to New Orleans and back with Ray spotted that number when Ray stopped to use a pay phone. I do not know how Stein got the number but I later got it from the FBI in CA 75-1996 and it got it from a pad Ray used. So I not only arranged for us to speak to Esquivel, I got us both invited to be guests at the Sugar Bowl and then Fensterwald chickened out on seeing Esquivel. (There were three by that name, the two older ones reputadly connected with Carlos Marcello, mafia boss of the area, and we were interested in the oldest, the grandfather.) Bud never told me why he changed his mind. Or why he asked me to handle it because he knew Guy Johnson, prominent lawyer supposedly also connected with the Office of Navy Intelligence..

Sal Panzeca was the junior member of Shaw's defense, Sciambra the junior member of Garrison's staff. I wish it had been possible to spend more time with ~~him~~. Panzeca.

I see that for all the drinking I was able to drive and did quite a bit.

Dean Andrews was a Warren Commission witness. He said that Oswald had been to see him with regard to his discharge and perhaps his wife's presence here or citizenship possibilities.

Andrews was a jive-talking lawyer who talked jive-talk in court. He blew some instrument and once had invited me to a French Quarter jam session, New Orleans jazz. I was not able to ccept the invitation, alas. My favorite popular music. The first time I met Anfrews, in the late spring of 1967, he told me that Garrison had been to see him the previous

November, threw a copy of the Dell edition of Whitewash on his desk and told Dean he should read it. Andrews told me that what Garrison read in it is what got him started, not the myth about his meeting on the plane with Senator Long. (Who told George Lardner no such thing happened. George Lardner in the WxPost and Ian McDonald in The Times of London both reported that Garrison started with Whitewash.)

One Saturday afternoon when I was with Dean his niece, Pat Young, came to see him. When he introduced me she kissed me and said I was the only one who treated her favorite uncle fairly. She told him she had gotten a job in Washington and would leave for it Monday I asked here where and she said hshe could not say. Some months later when I was one of those who addressed a conference for the brightest high school students on the east coast, The East Coast Conference on American Civiliaation, in Rockville, Md. we dined in the faculty lunch room. There was Pat Young, with a man named Weisberg to whom she introduced me and when I asked if they were scouting she gave me to understand they were. She may have been CIA. The man was a psychologist. We lunched together.

What I had not told Garrison and would not tell Panzeca proved that Shaw's alibi was perjury. He had testified that he had not left New Orleans because he was in charge of renting space in the new ITM building so it could not have been him the several Clinton, La witnesses said they had seen with Oswald. My own investigation developed two men who would have sworn they were under contract to rent the space and did, without Shaw. I have both on tape. With that Garrison could have nailed Shaw for perjury.

I think Cobb was the top man at the ITM, where Shaw was the manager.

Panzeca had copies of the nasty sex pictures Lane had had taken with two women, I'm told pins and needles stuff. I declined the offer to see them. Probably got them from the FBI.

FBI SA deBrueys, on page 2. Core phoned him as soon as Oswald started to picket the ITM building. I do not know if there was any special reason for it taking deBrueys so long to get there or why he had so little interest with LHO an FBI case. And with deBrueys the NO FBI Oswald case agent. But in the light of this several other items are of more interest.

Core must have told him, as he told me, that there were two young men picketing the ITM with Oswald. The one acknowledged to have by the FBI and Commission, Charles Hall Steele III, confirmed there was another with him, a man he did not know. Also, the NO Harbor police copy of the Oswald handbill it got when he picketed the carrier Wasp a short distance from the ITM, at the Dumaine St. wharf, had fingerprints not Oswald's. The FBI did nothing with that and refused to give me that identification. Garrison also did nothing about it. Moving deBrueys of all NO agents to Dallas seems a bit strange because in Dallas he sat in the office as an assistant to Gemberling, the case agent. Like Gemberling deB assembled the fat volumes of reports and forwarded them to FBIHQ. Why any agent without deB's knowledge of Oswald in New Orelans was not sent to Dallas so deB could be of use in NO is a mystery to me.

It also seems strange that Oswald knew the correct person on the WDSU-TV news staff to approach to have his picketing on TV and that he had a non-business number for him, Vern Rotman. In LHO's addressbook.

There is much that is odd except as suspicious in the FBI's NO investigation and it coincides in time with deB's being detalied to Dallas. A few of these matters:

Oswald did not pick his print job up from the Jones Printing Co and the FBI knew it but fudged this in its reports. When the Secret Service was getting close in its investigation, the FBI had SS HQ call the Secret Service off and they never learned what I did, from Jones and his assistant, Myra Silver. Taped. We can only guess why but that the FBI covered that up is a fact. The man both Jones and Silver identified was Kerry Thornley, who had known Oswald in the Marines. I have never used his name in public on this. It would be unfair. Even to a nasty like Thornley.

I do not know that deB's being detailed to FBIHQ right after my grand jury testimony had any connection with my testimony. Times coincide. He was out of NO for the duration of the Garrison fiasco.

The Oswald file/case was referred to Dallas from NO a month before the assassination. Or, it was deBuffreys' case all the time LHO was in NO.

Whatever the reason or reasons may have been, it is conspicuous that DeB was detailed to Dallas at the time of the assassination investigation for a job any FBI agent could have done, getting him out of NO for the key part of the JFK investigation there. And he was also out of NO and out of Garrison's reach for the period of the Shaw case. And he had been the Oswald case agent.

He should have known that Oswald was not alone in his picketing, too.

Which should have figured in any investigation. Other evidence relates this too. And didn't. Steele was in the TV footage so the FBI spoke to him alone. The other man wasn't in that footage so they forgot about him. He is in the FBI's records on the Doyle movie film and perhaps in its records on John Martin's (minneapolis). I have files on both.

That Shaw perjured himself in the Garrison case does not mean he was guilty in it.